

Message

From: CN=Tami Fordham/OU=R10/O=USEPA/C=US [CN=Tami Fordham/OU=R10/O=USEPA/C=US]
Sent: 8/4/2011 9:51:10 PM
To: CN=Felicia Wright/OU=DC/O=USEPA/C=US@EPA
Subject: Re: Fw: checking in regarding Bristol Bay - Heads up on sensitive issue

Hi Felicia,

EPA R10 will be in Tyonek next Thursday, not sure if you have had time to put that packet of information together? Rob Rosenfeld will be at the meeting and the tribal council has requested that we make them aware of any resources that might be available to assist them in effectively participating in the NEPA review process. They are a Cooperating Agency in the EIS for the Proposed Chuitna Mine.

Anyhow, while the resources that Rob asked you to put together may be outside of the scope, it would be great if we could share what we know.

Hope you are well!

Thanks - Tami

From: Felicia Wright/DC/USEPA/US
To: Tami Fordham/R10/USEPA/US@EPA
Date: 07/07/2011 06:34 AM
Subject: Re: Fw: checking in regarding Bristol Bay - Heads up on sensitive issue

Tami,
Thanks for this head's up. I am aware to some degree of the sensitivity of the consultation issue with AN Corporations, and it is good to know what is happening and the context for this. The last session of the NTOC is on consultation, and they plan to discuss specific examples of approaches EPA has taken, and get feedback on what has and has not worked. There are a number of tribal speakers, and I will coordinate with David Guest (and brief our management) on this particular issue so that we are careful to word our discussion and guard against inadvertently bringing this issue into the mix.

I wanted to quickly get back to you on the meeting with Rob Rosenberg. Interestingly, he did not mention any of his activity regarding mining. The focus was on the interface of fishing resources and healthy waters. They were, predictably, interested in knowing all the different water program resources that could help support/leverage their work. I haven't had time to put together a "package" of info for them yet, but we talked about watershed planning, ORD's ecosystem monitoring, wetlands grants, citizen monitoring networks and Healthy Watershed initiative, the national estuary program, and contacts in the R10 office.

Thanks again, Tami!

Felicia

Felicia Wright, Tribal Coordinator
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From: Tami Fordham/R10/USEPA/US
To: Felicia Wright/DC/USEPA/US@EPA

Cc: Palmer Hough/DC/USEPA/US@EPA, Sally Thomas/R10/USEPA/US@EPA, Richard Parkin/R10/USEPA/US@EPA, Judy Smith/R10/USEPA/US@EPA, Sheila Eckman/R10/USEPA/US@EPA, Westley Foster/R10/USEPA/US@EPA, Kathleen Kutschenreuter/DC/USEPA/US@EPA
Date: 07/06/2011 07:04 PM
Subject: Fw: checking in regarding Bristol Bay - Heads up on sensitive issue

Hi Felicia, I wanted to make sure you were aware of the sensitivity regarding consultation with AK Native Corps. I heard that this issue was raised at the last NTOC meeting and I don't want you to step into a fire next week.

The National Policy/Direction on "consulting with Alaska Native Corporations" has not been resolved, neither at the EPA level nor the Federal Government level. The truth is that EPA is meeting and has met with several Alaska Native Corporations on the Bristol Bay Watershed Assessment. The truth is also that they (Bristol Bay Native Corporation, Iliamna Development Corporation & Alaska Peninsula Corporation) have requested "consultation" on the same basis as tribal governments. EPA is willing to meet with the Native Corps, upon their request.

So until we have come to agreement and have a path forward, it is best to not refer to the interaction EPA is having with the corps (on BBAY) as "consultation." My notes below say "meeting with" so, I believe it is clear.

I just wanted to make sure you were aware of this sensitive matter.

If you have any questions please let me know.

Thanks - Tami

----- Forwarded by Tami Fordham/R10/USEPA/US on 07/06/2011 02:52 PM -----

From: Tami Fordham/R10/USEPA/US
To: Felicia Wright/DC/USEPA/US@EPA
Cc: Kathleen Kutschenreuter/DC/USEPA/US@EPA, Palmer Hough/DC/USEPA/US@EPA, Richard Parkin/R10/USEPA/US@EPA, Sheila Eckman/R10/USEPA/US@EPA, Westley Foster/R10/USEPA/US@EPA, Sally Thomas/R10/USEPA/US@EPA, Judy Smith/R10/USEPA/US@EPA
Date: 07/06/2011 08:26 AM
Subject: Re: checking in regarding Bristol Bay

Hi Felicia,

Here is an update on the Bristol Bay Watershed Assessment and related tribal coordination and consultation. You might also want to stress how R10 and HQ are coordinating on this effort. Please let me know what questions or issues come up at the NTOC regarding the assessment. Thanks!! Tami

EPA has received requests for consultation from 14 of the tribes that were offered G2G. The 14 tribal governments include: Levelock, Newhalen, New Stuyahok, Clark's Point, Ekwok, Curyung, Pedro Bay, Nondalton, Portage Creek, Ugashik, Pilot Point, Togiak, Naknek, and Iliamna.

EPA has visited Ekwok (twice), New Stuyahok, Koliganek, Dillingham, Iliamna/Newhalen (twice), and Kokhanok (for a Lake and Peninsula Borough meeting, which included tribal leaders as well). Tribal leaders have also visited the EPA Region 10 Seattle and EPA Headquarters offices to share their concerns and perspectives. EPA will continue to meet with tribal leaders on request and will attempt to travel to tribal communities, upon request and based on travel resources available. The community of Nondalton and Naknek have both made requests and EPA intends to travel to those communities when there is a draft document to share. EPA has heard that the tribes want to be involved in the process and EPA is committed to meaningful and timely involvement.

8 Tribal governments have designated representatives to serve on the Intergovernmental Technical Review Team, this team will be reviewing the preliminary outline of the Bristol Bay Watershed Assessment and will be meeting in August. This team's purpose is to provide scientific and traditional knowledge input to EPA as we develop the watershed assessment.

The following tribal governments have agreed to participate in this process:

- Curyung
- Newhalen
- Koliganek
- Ekwok
- Nondalton
- Levelock
- South Naknek
- Iliamna

In addition to all of the other science that is being assessed for this assessment, EPA is working with a contractor to collect traditional ecological knowledge. This work is focused on the salmon and the relationship of the salmon and the people in the region. This will include information related to the nutritional value, spiritual and cultural values. Additionally, the contractor will be looking at areas where Indigenous Peoples have lost their subsistence resources (such as salmon) and how that has impacted their community.

EPA will be offering consultation on the draft outline, draft and final documents, and prior to making any decisions. Region 10 will be coordinating with the tribes to develop a consultation plan that will include the various points for consultation, that will help determine where and when the meetings will take place.

Regardless of whether or not a tribal government has elected to be involved through the tribal consultation process, all tribal communities (City Council, Tribal Council, and Village Corporation) in the Bristol Bay watershed will be provided with updates through the public participation and involvement process.

Lastly, EPA R10 has received requests for consultation from several Alaska Native Corporations. EPA has met with a number of corporations and has agreed to continue meeting with them to share information and hear concerns.

For more information on tribal consultation and coordination please contact Tami Fordham, 907-271-1484 or fordham.tami@epa.gov.

From: Felicia Wright/DC/USEPA/US
To: Palmer Hough/DC/USEPA/US@EPA, Tami Fordham/R10/USEPA/US@EPA
Cc: Kathleen Kutschenreuter/DC/USEPA/US@EPA
Date: 06/28/2011 09:37 AM
Subject: checking in regarding Bristol Bay

Hi Palmer and Tami,
How is everything going on the tribal outreach and consultation process? I wanted to check in with you both for an update. We are planning meetings with the National Tribal Caucus on July 12 (water-specific) and July 13 (full NTOC), and I would like for us to be prepared for questions and to be able to give a program update in our water session.

Also, Tami,
Our mutual acquaintance, Rob Rosenthal, is now with the Yukon River Drainage Fisheries Association, and came to DC to meet with various folks looking for support. Their focus is on rural (tribal and non-tribal) fishermen. I would be interested to hear your perspective on the role this group has played, if any, in any of your efforts, including as a potential data source for BB assessment. Their focus has not been with EPA up to this point.

Thanks,
Felicia

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